

1966-1968

PHMC



Pennsylvania
Historical
And Museum
Commission



BIENNIAL REPORT



1966-1968



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, 1969

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THE COVER

Architects' plans for the development of historic sites and historical museums of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are depicted on the front cover. Left to right, top to bottom: administration building and orientation center, Pennsylvania Farm Museum; museum, administration building and orientation center, Ephrata Cloister; museum, Ft. LeBoeuf; Pennsylvania Lumber Museum.

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

BIENNIAL REPORT, 1966-1968

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, 1969

THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

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Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties
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Bureau of Museums

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

BIENNIAL REPORT

July 1, 1966 – June 30, 1968

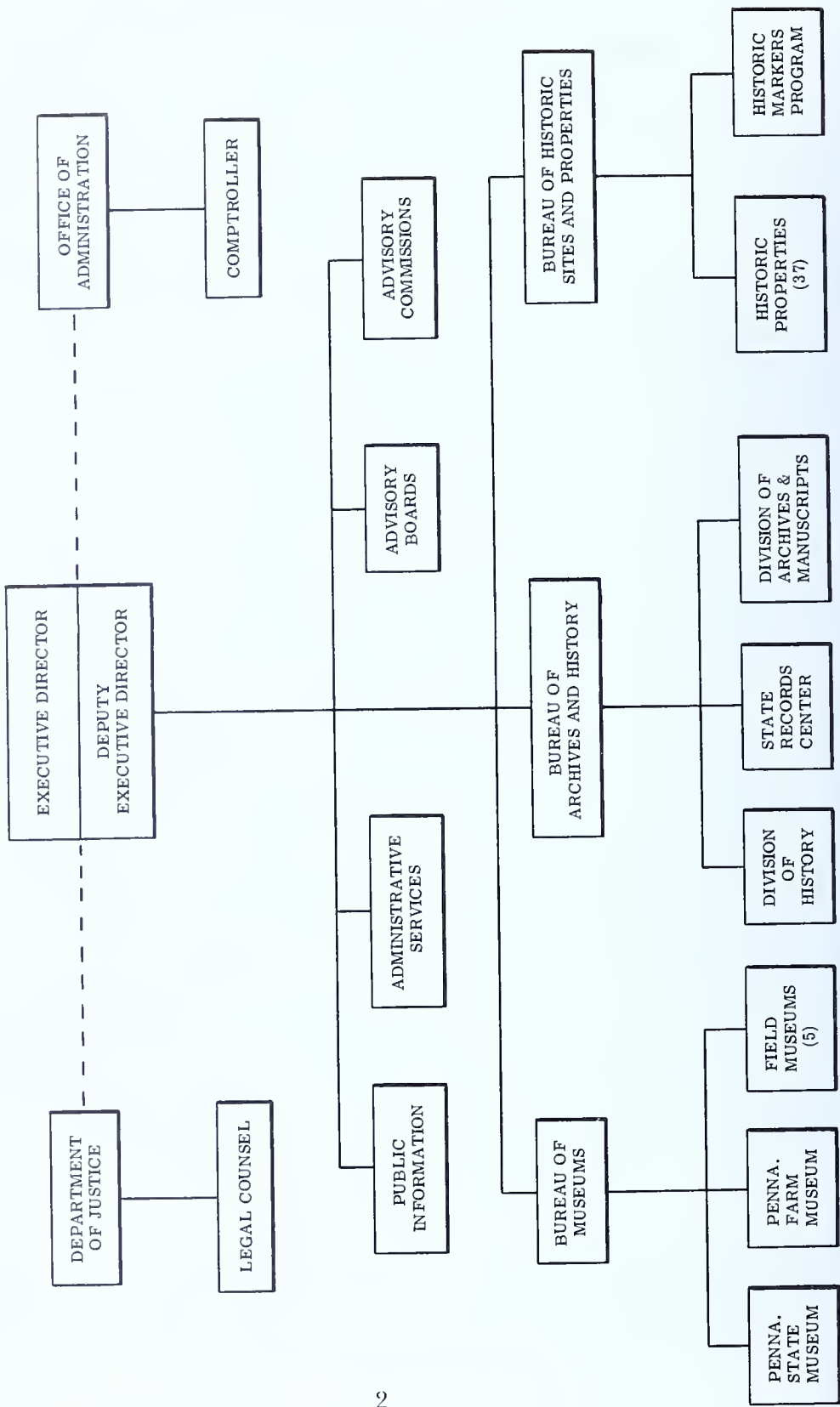
DURING the two years ending on June 30, 1968, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission moved ahead in all the many aspects of its activities as the official agency of the Commonwealth for the conservation of Pennsylvania's historical heritage. It increased its services and accelerated or adapted its program in order to meet the demands of the interested public most effectively and to give proper protection and care to the public records, historic sites and buildings, and other elements of Pennsylvania's heritage which have been entrusted to its care. The Commission has gained a position of leadership in historical restoration, museum development, and archival and research services, with the result that people interested in these matters everywhere in the Commonwealth look to it for advice, assistance, or information. These may be regarded as the principal achievements of the past biennium.

These achievements in a general sense are the results of many categories of achievement in the varied functions of the Commission, which are carried out through three bureaus, the Bureau of Archives and History, the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, and the Bureau of Museums. The significant achievements in their functions have been grouped in terms of these bureaus. Within each bureau the achievements are closely related, and one is often supported or enhanced by others. A presentation of service trends and program changes follows each group of achievements, since they help to explain and supplement each other. After these statements for the three main programs, the major administrative changes and advances will be discussed, and financial trends will be summarized.

BUREAU OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Achievements

During the biennium, the archival, historical, and publications activities of the Commission made renewed progress in collecting and preserving the records of Pennsylvania's past, in meeting the



public demand for information about our history, and in encouraging increased awareness and knowledge of Pennsylvania's historical heritage. The major achievements may be summarized as follows:

Numerous publications, including one scholarly study, ten important pamphlets, new printings of three older publications, and many folders on the historic properties, were produced by the historians for the information of the public.

Public response and interest brought 28,400 inquiries to be answered by the historians, and led to sales of Commission publications totaling \$31,741, as well as a wide distribution of free folders.

The microfilming of three important collections in the State Archives with the aid of a federal grant made film copies available for purchase by research libraries and institutions, which have already ordered more than a thousand rolls of microfilm.

Records and reference material in the Archives Building grew to a total of 63,563 cubic feet, while a modern archival and records center program was carried on to protect and safeguard the significant records of State agencies, and to make them conveniently available for research and reference.

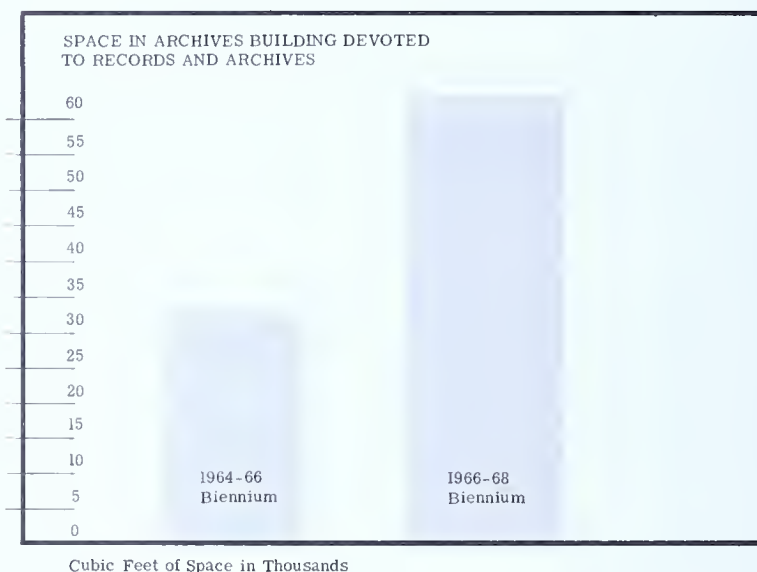
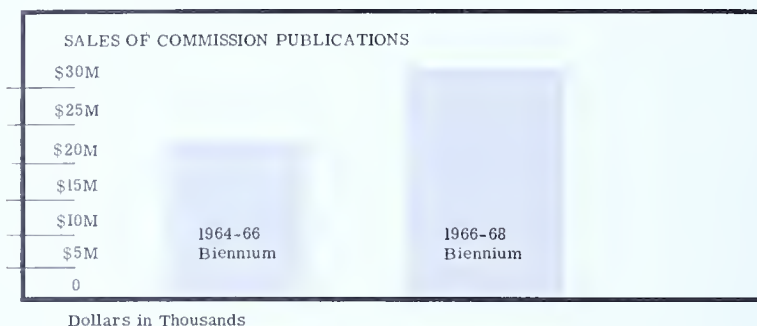
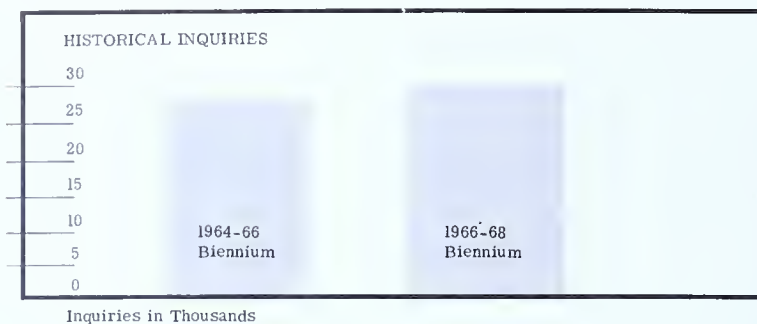
The State Archives received the personal papers of the late Governor Edward Martin as military commander and statesman, the papers of Governor William W. Scranton, Governor George M. Leader, and Governor Daniel H. Hastings, the records of the 1967-68 Constitutional Convention, and many other significant records to enhance its importance as a center for research on Pennsylvania history.

The Commission began to advise and aid in the records problems of counties, especially by cooperating with the County Records Committee in the preparation of retention and disposition schedules for certain county records.

The State Records Center looked after 45,771 cubic feet of records from virtually every department and agency in 1967-68, and its reference service from these semi-active records involved 22,538 responses or actions.

Cooperation with leading statewide and local historical societies in conferences and meetings, advising and aiding with special problems, and helping to publicize their activities, substantially increased the effectiveness of the Commission's own programs to promote interest in Pennsylvania history.

In the related Junior Historian movement, which is sponsored by the Commission to encourage young people in the schools to



take an interest in the history of their State, impressive progress in membership and activities was achieved with a full-time historian organizing conferences and workshops and keeping in touch with teachers and student leaders, whose contribution in time, effort, and ideas made this a lively and productive aspect of the Commission's programs.

The Ethnic Culture Survey, begun in January, 1967, to collect, preserve, and make available materials on the cultural and historical contributions of the major ethnic groups in the making of modern Pennsylvania, met with eager response from various minority groups, gained attention from national learned institutions, and built up a list of 1,300 correspondents and informants to cooperate in and contribute to its work.

Service Trends

Archival, historical, and publications activities had to meet new or increasing demands resulting from the following developments:

The historical societies of the State grew in number from 135 in 1963 to 174 in 1967, with 125 societies showing their interest in statewide historical programs by membership in the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies.

Growing public interest in State and local history brought more inquiries to be answered, increased the sale of Commission publications, and produced a demand for new publications.



These members of the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians were among the thousands of students each year who made guided tours of the William Penn Museum, particularly in the spring.

The interest in Pennsylvania history led to increasing emphasis on the Junior Historian program, which encourages this interest among young people.

Research and writing on Pennsylvania history in colleges and graduate schools brought more historians and students to make use of the archival and historical facilities of the Commission.

The recent emphasis on teaching Negro history and the history of other minorities in the schools and colleges brought a need for materials for research on the cultural and historical contributions of major ethnic groups.

The State's active records management program brought a heavy influx of inactive and semi-active records from departments and agencies into the Archives and the Records Center, totaling more than 30,000 cubic feet, which increased the need for arrangement, inventory, and reference service.

Program Changes

The archival and historical programs maintained their usual activities of research and writing, editing publications, collecting and preserving public records and historical documents, preparing inventories and guides to archival material, cooperating with historical societies, and answering inquiries. However, in response to special needs or developments, certain activities were stressed or intensified:

The State Records Center took on added importance as more and more agencies transferred semi-active records to its care and made use of its reference service, thus releasing valuable filing space and equipment for other purposes.

County and local records received more attention, with the Archives cooperating closely with the County Records Committee in the preparation of retention and disposal schedules for certain county records, and preparing for similar cooperation with the Local Government Records Committee to be created under the Municipal Records Act of 1968.

Gathering and preserving materials on the cultural and historical contributions of major ethnic groups became an important activity, and the response from correspondents, informants, and interested visitors showed their appreciation of the Commission's concern.

More emphasis was given to the promotion of Pennsylvania history in the schools and colleges, by sponsoring conferences for historians and teachers, and by encouraging the Junior Historian movement.

Microfilming and photostating service was provided in the Archives Building as an aid to research in the records.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC SITES AND PROPERTIES

Achievements

Significant advancements in the development, restoration, and presentation of the historic properties and markers administered by the Commission may be summarized as follows:

Major capital improvements involving restoration and exhibits were completed at Cornwall Furnace, Drake Well Museum, Hope Lodge, Daniel Boone Homestead, Searights Tollhouse, and Bushy Run Battlefield.

Similar important capital improvements were started at the Erie Customs House and Cashier's House, at Fort Le Boeuf Memorial, Pennsbury Manor, the Robert Fulton House, the Priestley House, Ephrata Cloister, Hope Lodge, and Old Economy, and these are in various stages of completion.

Other significant improvements and repairs were made as part of general operations at the Morton Homestead, Conrad Weiser Memorial Park, the Flagship Niagara, Fort Augusta, Daniel Boone Homestead, Pottsgrove Mansion, Drake Well Museum, Bushy Run Battlefield, and Hope Lodge.

Improvements in the interpretation and presentation of historic properties, through new property and directional signs, revised folders, and such touches of realism as sheep at Pennsbury Manor, were reflected by the increase in the number of visitors from 438,503 persons in 1966-67 to 477,232 in 1967-68.

One new property, the Old Stone House in Brady Township, Butler County, was opened during the period, and other acquisitions through Project 70 included the McCoy House in Lewistown, French Azilum in Bradford County, the Johnston Tavern in Mercer County, and additional land at the Priestley House in Northumberland.

The renovation and repainting of 860 historical markers from forty counties and the preparation and placing of 100 new markers kept up the standards of the Commonwealth's historical marker system.

Service Trends

Many factors contributed to the increased visitation at the historic properties and to the need for developing, restoring, and presenting

them properly. The most important of these factors may be summarized as follows:

Increased publicity made the public aware of the Commission's historic properties, as in the nationwide publicity for the replica of a seventeenth-century barge at Pennsbury Manor when it was delivered in 1968.

Americans have become increasingly aware of their state and national heritages.

The Mobile Museum of the Commission, traveling throughout the Commonwealth, has focused local attention on historic properties. The "Discover the New Pennsylvania" program of the Commonwealth and the national "Discover America" program meant continuing and expanding emphasis on tourism.

Individuals and groups became increasingly aware and concerned about the preservation and interpretation of our historical and architectural heritage, much of which continues to be threatened by urbanization, highway development, and citizen carelessness or apathy.

More teachers brought their students to visit historic properties as a means of making history real and living, producing a need for updating their interpretation for children.

Program Changes

There have been various changes in the emphasis or intensity of certain activities, to meet special needs; and some shifts in functions have been made. The more important changes may be summarized as follows:

Emphasis was given to the interpretation of the historical properties for visitors, particularly for school children, so that they can realize that the things they know and use, such as television, automobiles, and supermarkets, were not available to children in earlier days.

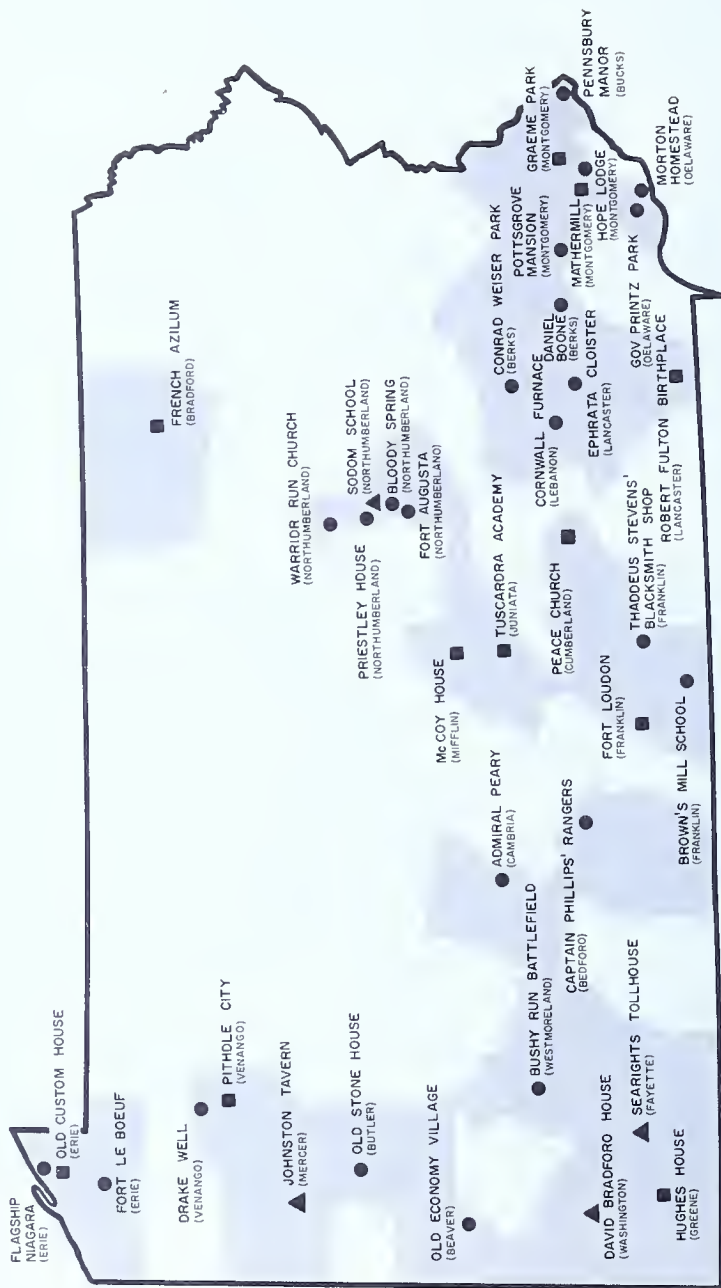
With the special emphasis on interpretation of the properties, much attention was given to improving the design and enhancing the attractiveness of the general Trail of History folder and the individual property folders in a complete new series which has had wide distribution.

The entire historical marker program was concentrated in the Bureau, which had previously been involved only in the maintenance of the markers, but now also prepared inscriptions and selected the locations for markers; this eliminated divided responsibilities and possible misunderstandings.



The installation of interpretive exhibits at Cornwall Furnace gives visitors a clearer understanding of iron manufacture in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The old charcoal barn has been converted into an orientation museum (top), while at the same time the furnace itself, including the furnace and casting room, has new exhibits (bottom). Similar projects were initiated at other historic sites and properties.

Historic Sites and Properties Development



- Operating prior to 1966-68 biennium.
▲ Constructed, restored, or opened to public during 1966-68 biennium.
■ Under design, restoration, or construction.

Attention was given to utilizing federal aid programs and Project 70 for the advancement of the historic properties programs; boys in the Neighborhood Youth Corps aided in grounds maintenance or archeological investigation at four properties; matching federal funds were received through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for projects at Bushy Run Battlefield and Daniel Boone Homestead and approved for Pithole City; acquisitions under Project 70 have already been mentioned.

BUREAU OF MUSEUMS

Achievements

In the museum program there were many significant achievements which may be summarized as follows:

New exhibits on folk art, architecture, history, geology, botany, and zoology, covering 35,000 square feet, were developed and opened in the William Penn Memorial Museum, while twenty-two special fine arts exhibits were assembled and displayed, as well as seasonal exhibits for national holidays.



A street lined with shops and a store was opened to the public on the first floor of the William Penn Museum. From left to right are the general store, tavern, and cabinetmaker's and tinsmith's shops.



The Fort Pitt Museum building was completed at Point State Park, Pittsburgh, and opened to visitors. It recreates, on the outside, a bastion of Fort Pitt, and on the inside it is designed to tell the early history of the Forks of the Ohio.

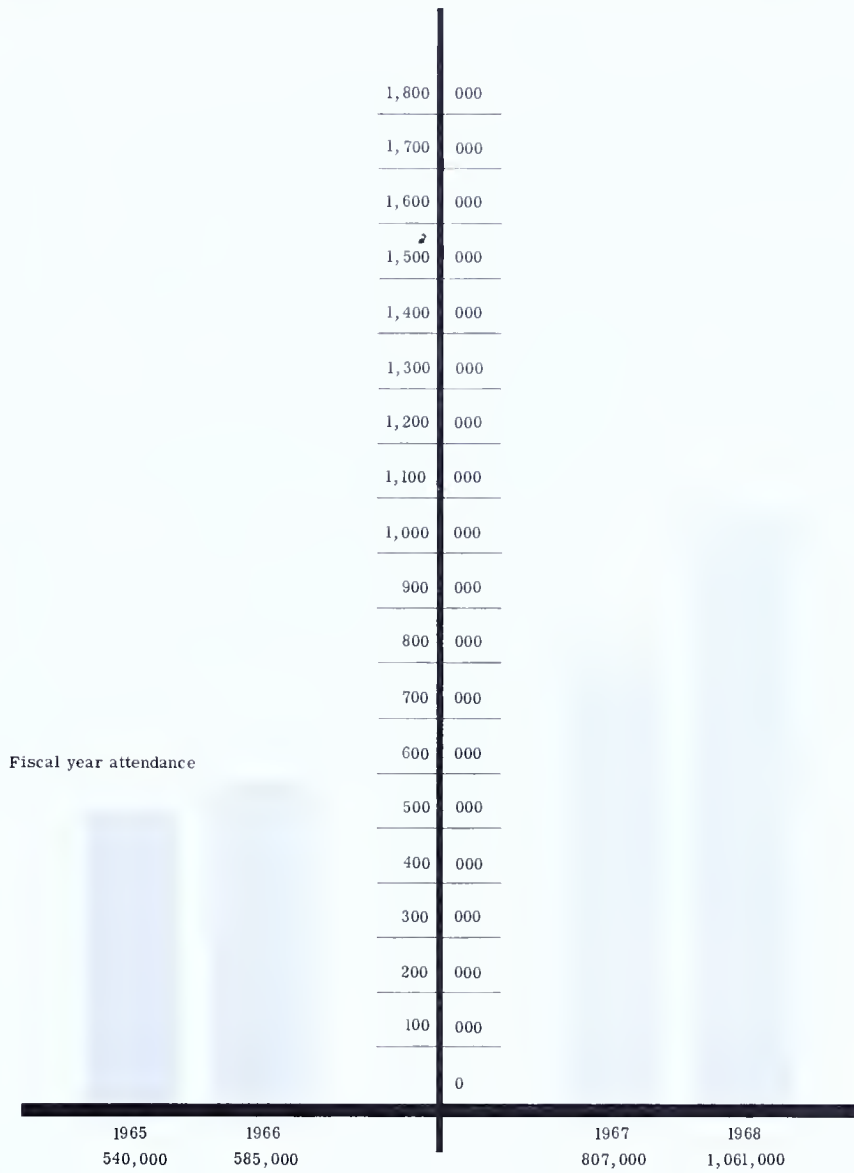
Other exhibits in preparation and nearing completion will cover 10,000 square feet for the Pennsylvania Military Museum at the 28th Division Shrine and 35,000 square feet for natural history ecological exhibits, archeological exhibits, and folk art exhibits in the William Penn Memorial Museum, as well as a full sequence of historical dioramas and exhibits to replace temporary exhibits in the Fort Pitt Museum.

To extend museum educational services, a traveling Mobile Museum visited forty-seven counties and was examined by 75,000 school-age visitors, while a detailed plan for graded traveling exhibits for in-school use was developed.

At the Pennsylvania Farm Museum two Federal period farm structures were furnished and opened, four special exhibits were prepared, and the acquisition of additional land and buildings initiated detailed planning for restoration and alteration of structures for exhibit and operational purposes.

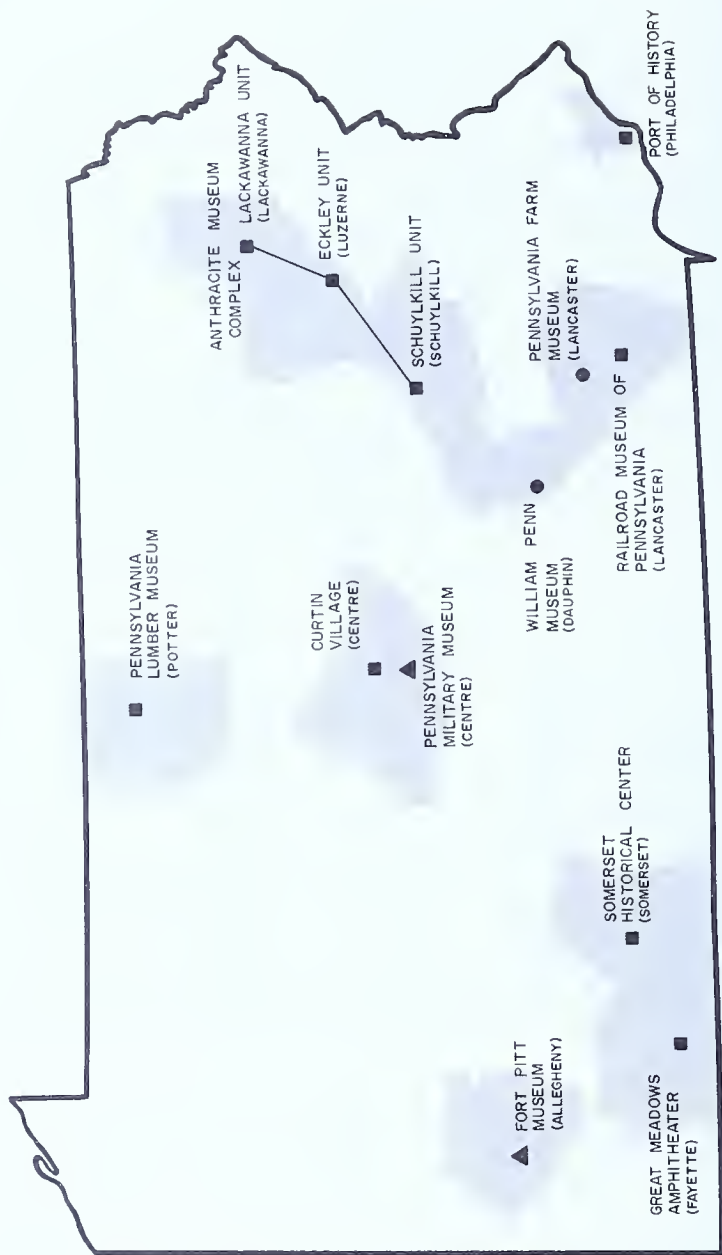
The steady enhancement of museum exhibits and services, with a new orientation program for all visitors to the William Penn

Visitors to Museums and Historic Sites



Memorial Museum, with daily craft demonstrations and special craft demonstration weekends at the Farm Museum, and other special educational features, brought more than 550,000 visitors to the William Penn Memorial Museum during the biennium, 250,000 visitors to the Farm Museum, and 171,661 to the Fort Pitt Museum, which was open for just one year. Detailed planning was completed for structures and exhibit programs for the Lumber Museum and the Somerset Historical Center.

Museums Development



Counties in parentheses.

Note: There were also improvements to existing museums.

● Operating prior to 1966-68 biennium.

▲ Constructed, restored, or opened to public during

1966-68 biennium.

■ Under design, restoration, or construction.

Planning continued for the Railroad Museum and the Great Meadows Amphitheater, and additional land was acquired for the Railroad Museum.

Exhibit materials were acquired for all the museums, including 276 accessions of major collections for the William Penn Memorial Museum as well as many other historical and archeological collections numbering thousands of items for the Railroad, Military, Lumber, and Fort Pitt museums.

Ten major archeological investigations were conducted into pre-historic and historic sites in Pennsylvania, and the analysis and cataloging of the findings is proceeding.

Twelve planetarium shows, ranging from the "Christmas Star" to "Unidentified Flying Objects," were presented at the William Penn Memorial Museum and attended by 100,155 persons.

Detailed consultative services were provided to such new museum operations as the Lycoming County Museum, the Mercer County Museum, the Sheffield Lumber Museum, and the Bedford Museum; and cooperative investigations were initiated on new museum projects with historical societies, Chambers of Commerce, planning and development councils, and other museums.

A long-range plan was developed for museum and cultural improvements in all parts of the Commonwealth.

Service Trends

The Commission's museum activities were guided and stimulated in the past two years by the following factors:

The favorable response of the general public, of educators, professional and civic organizations, and of other museums, to the opening and growth of the William Penn Memorial Museum, to the expansion of the Farm Museum, and to the development of other museum operations by the Commission has encouraged the acceleration of all the activities of this Bureau; and has created the climate for even more substantial programs in the future.

This favorable response was shown by the steadily rising visitation figures, with 950,000 visitors received during the period at the three museums now open.

The interest in the acceleration of museum activities is strongly reflected by the number of private and civic organizations seeking assistance in the cooperative endeavors involving the Bureau of Museums.

The rate of accessions and the growth of important collections reflected the willingness of private owners to entrust those collections to our museums for public use, enjoyment, and study.

Interest and support by commercial, tourist-oriented firms for the success of museum programs is evidence of their economic importance.

The general increase in the educational level of the nation has created a significant demand for museum activity and related cultural programs, and for the preservation of objects associated with our national heritage.

Educators are making greater use of museum resources in classroom teaching and in research and study projects.

Program Changes

Various aspects of the museum program have been intensified or accelerated to meet the needs manifested by the interest of the public. Most of these changes have been mentioned in the discussion of achievements and service trends, but they may be summarized as follows:



The Mobile Museum of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission was put on the road for the first time, making stops and attracting visitors at schools, historical societies, shopping centers, and on busy downtown streets throughout the State.

Emphasis has been given to expanding museum exhibits and museum activities, to planning for additional museum centers, and to making museum collections available to more people in areas of the State which now lack such resources.

In keeping with the educational and cultural function of museums, more specifically school-related activities have been planned.

REVIEW OF ACHIEVEMENTS

While the various specific achievements have been classified in three groups, the programs involved strengthen and assist each other in various ways. They are unified toward the common goal of advancing Pennsylvania's historical and cultural interests under the direction and leadership of the Executive Director's Office, and supported and aided by its Administrative Division. Here the Public Information Office had an important role in preparing and distributing information concerning Commission activities for release through commercial communications media, with 310 such releases issued during the period. Special interest stories, displays, illustrations, and information service to the news media helped to interest the public in Pennsylvania history and to bring increased awareness of the Commission's services.

ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

After a thorough study and review, the Commission made an extensive reorganization of its administrative structure, which was approved by the Executive Board on March 31, 1967. To strengthen the office of the Executive Director in the general field of management and planning, a Deputy Executive Director was authorized; and an Administrative Division was established to handle such general services as purchasing, building management, mail room, and supplies. A Bureau of Museums and a Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties were created by dividing the functions of the former Bureau of Museums, Historic Sites and Properties, which had become overly complex. With one bureau concentrating on museums and museum development, and the other on historic properties and markers, there was greater flexibility in operations and closer control over field activities. At the same time, to eliminate other unwieldy names, the Bureau of Research, Publications and Records was renamed the Bureau of Archives and History, its Division of Research and Publications became the Division of History, and the Division of Public Records became the Division of Archives and Manuscripts. The

State Records Center was added to this Bureau as a third division to recognize its importance in caring for semi-active records of other departments and agencies in cooperation with the records management program of the Office of Administration.

Some internal readjustment of functions followed this general reorganization in order to realize its advantages. In the historical marker program, inscriptions had been prepared and sites selected by the Division of History in the Bureau of Archives and History, while the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties was responsible for placing and maintaining the markers. Now all these responsibilities were concentrated in the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, eliminating the overlapping and misunderstandings which sometimes resulted from the previous arrangement. This also freed the historians for increasing responsibilities in other areas, particularly with regard to microfilming and photocopying service.

Similarly, the library facilities serving research needs in the Archives and technical needs in the Museum had been a divided responsibility. A professional librarian in the Bureau of Archives and History was placed in charge of the entire library setup.

The Commission was much concerned to provide regular microfilming and photocopying service for historians, students, and government agencies making use of the Archives, the Historical Collections, and the State Records Center. Such service is virtually an essential in an archival and historical setup like the Commission's, for the need for copies for research and reference brings innumerable demands for microfilm and photostatic copies, and the risk and the time involved in taking valuable records elsewhere for copying cannot be disregarded. One aspect of this need was satisfied when the special project for microfilming important archival collections under a federal grant brought improvement in equipment and training in personnel. This led to an efficient and capable microfilm unit, which began to function as a regular operation after the special project ended in June 1967.

The problem of photostat service remained, but in this the Department of Property and Supplies and the Office of Administration provided a solution. Since the Commission was the chief user of the photostat service in the Department, this entire unit—operator, equipment, and supplies—was transferred in October, 1967, to the Archives Building and placed under the supervision of the Division of History. Here other agencies continued to make use of its services, while it met the prime needs of researchers. The formal budget change from



This replica of a mastodon, an elephantlike creature that lived in what is now Pennsylvania 10,000 years ago, was one of several exhibits opened by the Natural History Section in the William Penn Museum.

Property and Supplies was not made until July, 1968, but the photostat unit began to function immediately as a Commission service to other agencies and to the public.

Efforts were made to improve the staffing, not only in quantity but especially in quality through training and through assignments giving variety in experience. In the central bureau offices the development of staff with specialized skills was sought. Staff capabilities were analyzed in the museum program, with emphasis on the public service aspect of museum work which involves guides, docents, and security personnel; and the need for improvement in these areas was evident. Training programs for new personnel, particularly in special techniques and in public service and educational work, have been strengthened. There were similar developments in other bureaus.

In the Bureau of Archives and History, the two historians assigned to the Ethnic Culture Survey and the Junior Historian program became part of its central office staff, to enable them to develop their distinctive activities freely. They were encouraged to work directly

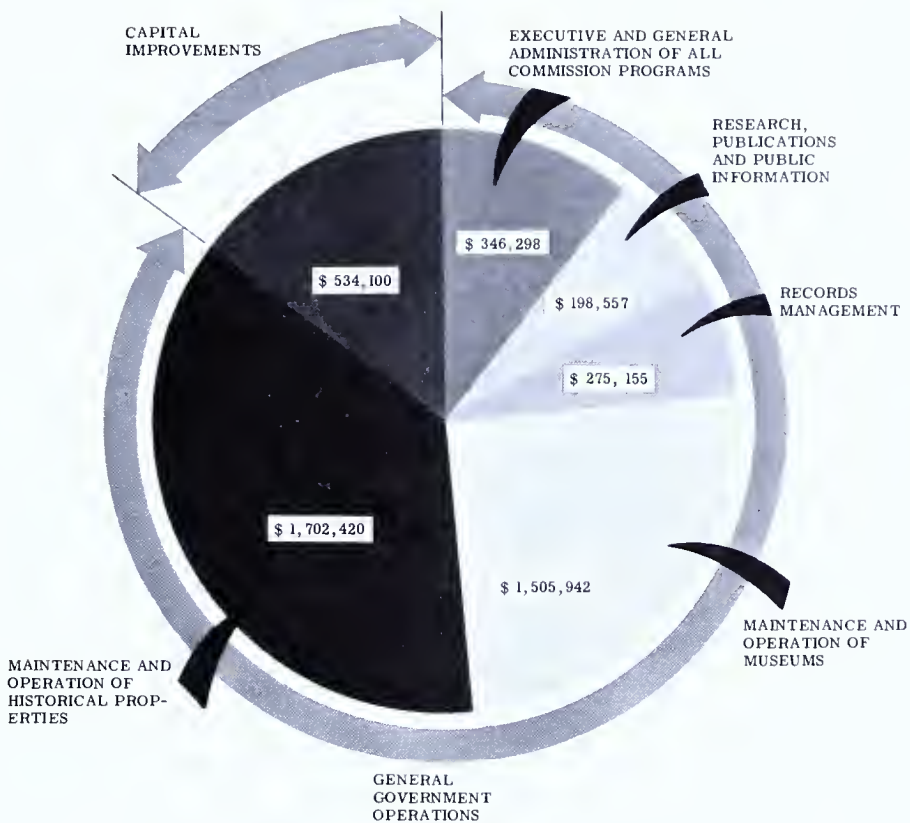
with the other bureaus in developing special displays in the William Penn Memorial Museum and special activities at the historic properties.

On the general administrative level, an orientation program for all new employes was instituted, so that everyone working for the Commission would have some knowledge and appreciation of its objectives and varied activities. To facilitate work and provide information on procedures and forms, a Procedural Manual of instructions was developed and distributed to all the bureaus and divisions.

In both the museum and the archival programs, specialized contracted services were utilized in repeated efforts to keep down the costs of constructing exhibits, restoring historical manuscripts, and producing microfilm positives. Such contracts eliminated the need for additional production equipment, increasing staff, and purchasing materials.



New art exhibits are presented regularly in the fine arts gallery of the William Penn Museum.



FINANCIAL TRENDS

The varied activities of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are supported primarily by direct appropriations from the General Fund. This is supplemented by admission fees collected at the Pennsylvania Farm Museum and ten historical properties and by the proceeds from the sale of Commission publications. This money goes into a Historical Preservation Fund, a revolving fund which the General Assembly has appropriated directly for all Commission activities. In this way, part of the cost of various Commission undertakings is borne by those particularly interested rather than by the general taxpayer.

For the period covered by this report, appropriations from the *General Fund* granted to the Commission totaled \$4,979,972, which included \$4,028,372 for General Government Operations. During the previous biennial report period, appropriations received for General Government Operations had amounted to \$2,778,363. Special appropriations were received for promoting history in the schools (\$25,000),

a study of ethnic groups (\$30,000), and furnishing a restored historic house (\$30,000). Appropriations for capital improvements and the purchase of original equipment for capital projects totaled \$534,100. Various special appropriations for subsidizing construction, restoration, maintenance, and operation of museums and historic properties by non-governmental organizations amounted to \$332,500.

In the last three months of the biennium it was necessary to lapse the balances remaining in certain of these special appropriations, to a total of \$139,302. This caused some difficulty, but adjustments were made to avoid discontinuance of desirable activities.

Special Funds and Restricted Receipt Accounts reflected cash balances of \$177,006 at the outset of the biennial report period. Revenue realized during the period amounted to \$290,914, with the major portion (\$250,717) attributed to the Historical Preservation Fund. The Pennsylvania Federation of Women's Clubs contributed \$3,340 for the purchase of antiques for the William Penn Memorial Museum. Expenditures from special funds and restricted receipt accounts totaled \$357,524.

The Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act, Act No. 443 of 1968, provided the sum of \$125,000,000 for the use of the Department of Forests and Waters, the Fish and Game commissions, and the Historical and Museum Commission for the development of public outdoor recreation areas over a ten-year period. The initial appropriation for a two-year period beginning on July 1, 1967, amounted to \$25,000,000, and of this the Commission received an allocation of \$2,048,000. Since this allocation was received late in the 1967-68 fiscal year, it was not possible to implement any projects during the period covered by this report. It is intended, whenever possible, to augment these funds with federal funds provided through the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The first such augmentation, amounting to \$7,055, was received prior to June 30, 1968. It is anticipated that these federal augmentations will total as much as a half million dollars during the next two years.

